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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/289,601	04/12/1999	SHINJI KONISHI	Q53957	8834

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EXAMINER

TRAN, DOUGLAS Q

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2624

DATE MAILED: 08/29/2003

24

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/289,601

Applicant(s)

KONISHI, SHINJI

Examiner

Douglas Q. Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Fujita et al. (US Patent No. 6,055,361) and Kawakami (US Patent No. 6,433,884 B1).

As to claim 11, Fujita teaches:

Reception means (41 in fig. 1) for receiving print job data contains print data and commands (col. 5, lines 61-63) and reply information (commands in the print job data includes urgent command 'col. 5, lines 56-58', the urgent command includes status inquiry command 'col. 6, lines 16-18' and more reference in col. 13, lines 59-67, col. 14, lines 47-55);

print job data processing means (i.e., command processor 23 in fig. 1) for interpreting the print job data (col. 5, lines 10-14), detecting the reply information (i.e., the status inquiry command) and returning a part of the print job data (page information of the print job data), which indicates a process state of the print job based on the reply information to a predetermined destination which is external to the printer (col. 6, lines 24-29 and col. 2, lines 55-67; the status of page information of the print job is informed to the host in steps of 1903 to 1905 in fig. 19);

print control means (24 in fig. 1) for printing based on interpretation of the print data processing means (col. 5, lines 16-18).

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However, Fujita does not teach print data job containing the predetermined destination, which is included in intrinsic data of the reply information.

Kawakami teaches print data job containing the predetermined destination, which is included in intrinsic data of the reply information (col. 4, lines 47-50, and fig. 4 shows the 5th byte indicates reply information including information of the return command and status to the predetermined destination which is showed on the 3rd or 4th bytes).

It would have been obvious to have modified the print job of Fujita to contain the predetermined destination that is included in intrinsic data of the reply information as taught Kawakami. The suggestion for modifying the system of Fujita can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth by Kawakami because 1) both of the printing systems of Fujita and Kawakami are related with the exchange of data between the host computer; 2) the modified system would be efficiency by providing the information of the destination in the reply information so that the printer can easily keep track and response the status of the printer to the sending device based on the device information in the status information.

As to claim 12, Fujita teaches the print job data processing means returns the reply information to the predetermined destination after completion of processing of the print data (col. 5, line 64 through col. 6, line 5).

As to claim 13, Fujita teaches if the reply information is related to print data concerning print operation, the print job data processing means checks execution of the print data concerning print operation before returning the reply information to the predetermined destination (col. 5, line 64 through col. 6, line 5).

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As to claim 14, Fujita teaches the print data concerning print operation is at least any one of a paper feed instruction, a paper eject instruction, a page feed instruction, a line feed instruction and a carriage return instruction (col. 5, lines 24-40).

As to claim 15, Fujita teaches the reply information issuance means issues timing specification information for specifying return timing of the reply information in addition to the reply information, and wherein the print job data processing means returns timing specified on the timing specification information (col. 1, lines 48-50).

As to claim 16, Fujita teaches the reply information issuance means issues timing specification information for specifying return timing of the reply information in addition to the reply information, and wherein upon reception of the timing specification information, the print data processing means returns the reply information to the predetermined destination after completion of processing the print data related to the reply information (col. 1, lines 48-50).

As to claims 17-18, Fujita teaches the command code including request for status information (in fig. 8, the order of command codes does not effect the result for requesting to the printer).

As to claims 19 and 31, Fujita teaches the reception means, the print data processing means, and the print control means can operate in parallel (see fig. 1).

As to claim 24, the combination of Fujita and Kawakami teaches program for instructing the apparatus claim 11 as indicated above.

As to claims 28-29, Kawakami teaches the printer system in utilized in a network environment includes a plurality of host computers that output information to the printer (fig. 4 shows the 3rd byte with unit ID in the network)

As to claim 1, Fujita teaches a host computer (10 in fig. 1) and a printer (20 in fig. 1) for receiving print data from the host computer and printing based on the print data;

print job data processing means (i.e., command processor 23 in fig. 1) for interpreting the print job data comprises the print data (i.e. image data) and reply information (i.e., commands col. 5, lines 5-18) (note: commands in the print job data includes urgent command 'col. 5, lines 56-58', the urgent command includes status inquiry command 'col. 6, lines 16-18' and more reference in col. 13, lines 59-67, col. 14, lines 47-55), detecting and returning a part of the print job data, which indicates a process state of the print job based on the reply information to a predetermined destination which is external to the printer (col. 2, lines 55-67; the status of page information of the print job is informed to the host in steps of 1903 to 1905 in fig. 19);

print control means (24 in fig. 1) for printing based on interpretation of the print data processing means (col. 5, lines 16-18); and

job processing state monitor means (25 in fig. 1), contained in the printer, for monitoring a processing state of the print job data based on the reply information returned from the print data processing means (col. 6, lines 3-5, 24-28).

the host computer (from 10 in fig. 1) for generating print data and for issuing reply information (i.e., request command or status inquiry command in fig. 8) at a predetermined position of print job data containing the print data (col. 5, lines 5-9 and 61-63).

However, Fujita does not teach print data job containing the predetermined destination, which is included in intrinsic data of the reply information.

Kawakami teaches print data job containing the predetermined destination, which is included in intrinsic data of the reply information (col. 4, lines 47-50, and fig. 4 shows the 5th

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byte indicates reply information including information of the return command and status to the predetermined destination which is showed on the 3rd or 4th bytes).

It would have been obvious to have modified the print job of Fujita to contain the predetermined destination that is included in intrinsic data of the reply information as taught Kawakami. The suggestion for modifying the system of Fujita can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth by Kawakami because 1) both of the printing systems of Fujita and Kawakami are related with the exchange of data between the host computer; 2) the modified system would be efficiency by providing the information of the destination in the reply information so that the printer can easily keep track and response the status of the printer to the sending device based on the device information in the status information.

As to claim 2, Fujita teaches the print job data processing means returns the reply information to the predetermined destination after completion of processing of the print data (col. 5, line 64 through col. 6, line 5).

As to claim 3, Fujita teaches if the reply information is related to print data concerning print operation, the print job data processing means checks execution of the print data concerning print operation before returning the reply information to the predetermined destination (col. 5, line 64 through col. 6, line 5).

As to claim 4, Fujita teaches the reply information issuance means issues timing specification information for specifying return timing of the reply information in addition to the reply information, and wherein the print job data processing means returns timing specified on the timing specification information (col. 1, lines 48-50).

As to claim 5, Fujita teaches the reply information issuance means issues timing specification information for specifying return timing of the reply information in addition to the reply information, and wherein upon reception of the timing specification information, the print data processing means returns the reply information to the predetermined destination after completion of processing the print data related to the reply information (col. 1, lines 48-50).

As to claim 6, Fujita teaches the reply information issuance means issues timing specification information for specifying return timing of the reply information in addition to the reply information, and wherein upon reception of the timing specification information, the print data processing means returns the reply information to the predetermined destination after checking processing of the print data concerning print operation related to the reply information (col. 5, line 64 through col. 6, line 5).

As to claim 7, Fujita teaches the reply information issuance means issues the reply information and the timing specification information so that the print data is placed between the reply information and the timing specification information. (col. 5, line 64 through col. 6, line 5).

As to claim 8, Fujita teaches the reply information issuance means issues the timing specification information and the reply information so that the timing specification information, the print data, and the reply information are processed by the print data processing means in this order (col. 5, line 64 through col. 6, line 5).

As to claim 9, Fujita teaches the print data concerning print operation is at least any one of a paper feed instruction, a paper eject instruction, a page feed instruction, a line feed instruction, and a carriage return instruction (col. 5, 19-23; note: the printer command should include these above features).

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As to claim 10, Fujita teaches reply information detection means for detecting the reply information returned from the print data processing means and sending the detected reply information to the job processing state monitor means (from 23 to 26 in fig. 1).

As to claim 20, McCormick teaches:

means (i.e., windows print manager) for generating print data and means (i.e., control printing 1601 in fig. 16) for issuing the request status commands (col. 8, lines 20-32).

a job processing state monitor function (1601 in fig. 16) of monitoring a processing state of the print job data based on the reply information returned from the printer in a format that can be read and understood by a computer (col. 8, lines 50-53).

However, Fujita does not teach print data job containing the print data and the predetermined destination, which is included in intrinsic data of the reply information.

Kawakami teaches print data job containing the predetermined destination, which is included in intrinsic data of the reply information (col. 4, lines 47-50, and fig. 4 shows the 5th byte indicates reply information including information of the return command and status to the predetermined destination which is showed on the 3rd or 4th bytes).

It would have been obvious to have modified the print job of McCormick to contain the print data and the predetermined destination that is included in intrinsic data of the reply information as taught Kawakami. The suggestion for modifying the system of McCormick can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth by Kawakami because 1) both of the printing systems are related with the exchange of data between the host computer; 2) the modified system would be efficiency by providing the information of the destination in the reply

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information so that the printer can easily keep track and response the status of the printer to the sending device based on the device information in the status information.

As to claim 21, McCormick teaches the reply information issuance function issues timing specification for specifying return timing of the reply information in addition to the reply information (col. 10, lines 36-46).

As to claim 22, McCormick teaches reply information detection (1603 in fig. 16) function of detecting the reply information returned from the printer and sending the detected reply information to the job processing state monitor function (1601 in fig. 16).

As to claim 23, due to the similarity of this claim to that of the feature of the combination of Fujita and Kawakami as in claim 1, this claim is rejected as the reasons applied to claim 1 except for a monitoring processor which is external to the printer, such limitation would have been obvious in the system of Fujita and Kawakami if the monitor processor is set up in a server which controls the print job between the host computer and the printer. Fujita teaches that a monitoring processor (23 in fig. 20) is associated with page monitor 60 (fig. 20) detects the status of each page and then notifies to the host via interface (21 in fig. 20). If a monitoring processor, which is external to the printer, receives the status information from the printer, the result is the same with the teaching of Fujita. Therefore, the monitoring processor being external to the printer in Fujita would have been a matter of obvious design choice to one of ordinary skill in the art.

As to claim 25, Fujita teaches the print data processing means automatically returns the reply information to the predetermined destination and the return of the reply information is not

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in response to any external command (the return of the reply information to the host based on the status inquiry command included in the print job, col. 6, lines 24-28).

As to claims 26-27, Kawakami teaches the printer system in utilized in a network environment includes a plurality of host computers that output information to the printer (fig. 4 shows the 3rd byte with unit ID in the network).

As to claim 30, Fujita teaches reply information detection function of detecting the reply information returned from the printer and sending the detected reply information to the job processing state monitor function (42 in fig. 1).

Response to Arguments and Amendment

Applicant's arguments filed 6/6/03, with respect to claims 1-31, have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. This action is made **non-final**.

The recited reference of Fujiyama is substituted by Kawakami. Kawakami teaches the print data job containing the predetermined destination, which is included in intrinsic data of the reply information (col. 4, lines 47-50, and fig. 4 shows the 5th byte indicates reply information including information of the return command and status to the predetermined destination which is showed on the 3rd or 4th bytes). This above limitation is modified to the deficiency of either Fujita or McCormick.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the cited prior art fully discloses the claimed invention and the rejection stand.

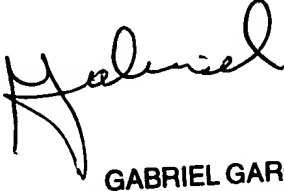

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Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas Q. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-4857 or E-mail address is Douglas.tran@uspto.gov.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Douglas Q. Tran
Aug. 23, 2003

 
GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER